

# NBA Finals: Thunder vs. Pacers

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

## Oklahoma City Thunder Alex Caruso

Practice Day

**Q. What is in your mind when you are so close? How tough is it to manage the emotions?**

ALEX CARUSO: Yeah, I mean, I've been preparing for this moment for a couple years. I've had the idea of what I thought it would feel like watching other teams win the final game.

I don't feel very different right now. I'm very, very concentrated, very focused on winning the fourth game as we've talked about all series. When we were down 1-0, when we were down 2-1, it's the team that gets to four that wins first.

That's still my mentality, try to get this last win.

**Q. The atmosphere is pretty different to when you were a champion in the bubble. Are you remembering some feelings of that moment when you were so close?**

ALEX CARUSO: Yeah, same adrenaline, same focus, same energy around it. You understand the moment of how close you are. You just want to be ready to put your best out there and leave it all out there.

**Q. Are you guys preparing for Tyrese Haliburton to play tomorrow?**

ALEX CARUSO: I expect him to play.

**Q. You had some games with a lot of points, some with more steals, more focusing on the defensive side. How do you decide as the game goes on what you should focus on, or that just comes naturally?**

ALEX CARUSO: Yeah, usually the game kind of tells me what to do. I think that's probably why I fit in so well with this team this year. I think there was a clear opportunity and role for me in the skill set that I bring.

Through the Playoffs I've just been trying to focus on that,



each game, figure out obviously I have to play to a certain energy level and standard throughout the game, but sometimes the ball finds me 12 times and I shoot, sometimes it goes in, other times like the other night it doesn't. I had four steals and made some hustle plays.

Just trying to win the games. Whatever the game tells me to do, that's usually what I got to show up and do.

**Q. You've been here, one win away from winning it all. As a veteran, do you tell the teammates about staying grounded and that the job is not done?**

ALEX CARUSO: Yeah, for us it's the same thing. Like I just said, we talked about when we were down twice in the series, it's the first team to four. Until you have four wins, you're not the better team, you're not the champion, you don't get to win.

I think we have a clear focus with the group on that's the goal, to win four games. And we understand we have a great opportunity to do that tomorrow night in Game 6.

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